

**Contribution to Williamsburg-James City  
County Schools**

**General Operating Fund**

**DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES**

The Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools operates as an independent, regional school division. In FY 2003, the division will operate 12 schools – seven elementary schools, three middle schools, and two high schools. Funding is received from several sources – local appropriations, State aid, Federal aid, and charges for certain services. This budget provides for James City County’s share of the Schools’ operating budget and the Grant Fund contribution for Debt Service relating to school facilities.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

<b><u>Breakdown</u></b>	<b><u>FY 02 Budget</u></b>	<b><u>FY 03 Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Percent Change</u></b>	<b><u>FY 04 Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Percent Change</u></b>
Local Contribution	\$ 40,080,081	\$ 43,441,967	8.4	\$ 46,443,538	6.9
State Sales Tax	5,946,843	5,720,757	(3.8)	6,066,435	6.0
	<u>\$ 46,026,924</u>	<u>\$ 49,162,724</u>	<u>6.8</u>	<u>\$ 52,509,973</u>	<u>6.8</u>
Debt Service	7,605,144	7,985,000	5.0	8,885,000	11.3
“Two Penny” Debt Service	-	1,047,000	0.0	1,118,400	6.8
Salary/Fringes–Board	17,240	18,450	7.0	18,450	0.0
Summer Youth Training	13,000	-	(100.0)	-	-
	<u>\$ 53,662,308</u>	<u>\$ 58,213,174</u>	<u>8.5</u>	<u>\$ 62,531,823</u>	<u>7.4</u>

**BUDGET COMMENTS**

The local contribution is made up of local revenues and the moneys provided to the County as a share of the State Sales Tax for Education. The amount listed for debt service is the amount contributed to the debt service fund to repay school debt. Salaries and fringe benefits for the five County Board members on the Williamsburg-James City County School Board are also shown.

The “Two Penny” Debt Service figure shown above represents a proposal to allocate the equivalent of two cents of the real estate tax as an additional contribution to the Debt Service Fund. This will allow the debt service fund to accumulate enough money to issue bonds in FY 2005 for a third high school and avoid a tax increase for the debt service incurred for that borrowing. This is better illustrated in the presentation of the Debt Service Fund in Section F of this budget.

The Schools remain the single largest investment of County funds, consuming 54 percent of total County revenue and 60 percent of the County’s discretionary revenue, after deducting categorical grants for other programs and fees and charges for services like Parks and Recreation.

The impact of this increase in County funds is shown on the next page as a component of total School Board revenues.

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The funding proposal recommended in this budget funds a total school budget as follows:

	FY 02 Adopted Budget	FY 03 School Request	FY 03 Adopted Budget	Difference Requested to Proposed	FY 2004 Adopted Budget
County	\$ 46,026,924	\$ 49,763,288	\$ 49,162,724	\$ (600,564)	52,509,973
City	6,756,246	6,238,687	6,197,790	(40,897)	6,489,997
Other	15,427,828	15,666,712	15,666,712	-	16,058,380
	<u>\$ 68,210,998</u>	<u>\$ 71,668,687</u>	<u>\$ 71,027,226</u>	<u>\$ (641,461)</u>	<u>75,058,350</u>

Local Funding as  
a percent of the  
total budget

77.4%

77.9%

78.8%

The City share is calculated to match the County's proposed under the current contract. City Council may appropriate either less than or more than the contribution shown above.

As is illustrated, the Proposed Budget does not fully fund the budget requested for FY 2003. The amount that is not funded, \$367,118, is exclusively the cost of salaries, fringes, and supplies in the requested school budget that relates to the Grounds Maintenance function.

**Grounds Maintenance**

For almost nine years the County has provided vehicles, equipment, supervision, and manpower to support the W-JCC Schools ground maintenance function. School grounds employees continue to report to supervisors within the school system, are evaluated by those supervisors, and are reassigned to other duties as directed. These circumstances make it difficult and awkward for the County grounds staff to be fully responsive to the needs of School building principals and administrators. The budget recommendation, above, attempts to focus attention on a contractual service agreement than has been under discussion for the past several months. Money has been set aside in the County's Operating Contingency budget to fully fund the School Board's requested Operating budget. It is our hope that a contractual agreement can be approved by June 30, 2002, to allow the County to fully manage the grounds resources currently within both the School and County budgets. If that occurs, then a combined operation would more effectively meet its responsibilities for School grounds maintenance.

**State Support for Public Education**

The Commonwealth of Virginia has established Standards of Quality, Standards of Learning, and other mandates for school divisions around the State. Funding, however, has never met the standards. The State's failure to adopt a budget in 2001 and the spending reductions at the State level in 2002 and beyond have resulted in an ever-increasing dependency on local tax dollars to finance basic educational programs, teacher pay, and capital spending for schools.